# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SAMPLE LOCALITY MAP AND RESULTS OF CARRIER DISTILLATION

EMISSION SPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF STREAM-SEDIMENT SAMPLES

FROM THE CHANDLER LAKE QUADRANGLE, ALASKA

By

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This report is preliminary and has not been reviewed for conformity with U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards and stratigraphic nomenclature. Any use of trade names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the USGS.

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#### STUDIES RELATED TO AMRAP

The U.S. Geological Survey is required by the Alaskan National Interests Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487, 1980), to survey certain Federal lands to determine their mineral resource potential. Results from the Alaskan Mineral Resource Appraisal Program (AMRAP) must be made available to the public and be submitted to the President and the Congress. This report presents analytical results of a geochemical survey of the Chandler Lake quadrangle, Alaska.

#### INTRODUCTION

In June and July, 1981, the U.S. Geological Survey conducted a reconnaissance geochemical survey of the Chandler Lake  $1^{\circ}$  x  $3^{\circ}$  quadrangle and the western and central portion of the Killik River  $1^{\circ}$  x  $3^{\circ}$  quadrangle. This report presents the results of the samples from the Chandler Lake quadrangle.

The quadrangle comprises about  $3,600~\text{mi}^2$  in the north-central part of the Brooks Range. The area studied, approximately the western three-fourths of the southern or mountainous half of the quadrangle, is about  $1,200~\text{mi}^2$  in area. The area is about 250~mi northwest of Fairbanks. Access is by means of chartered aircraft from Bettles.

The southern boundary of the quadrangle is approximately along the Brooks Range divide. The core of the Brooks Range consists mostly of metamorphic and igneous rocks. North of this core of metamorphic and igneous rocks is a belt of intensely thrust-faulted sedimentary and minor mafic igneous rocks, which are mostly unmetamorphosed and are of Late Devonian to Triassic age. This belt covers approximately the southern third of the quadrangle. North of the mountains, the foothills of the Brooks Range consist of Cretaceous to Tertiary age deltaic rocks that were derived from the Brooks Range and prograded northward and eastward. These clastic rocks are deformed into long east-west trending anticlines and synclines and comprise the northern two-thirds of the quadrangle. The individual formations have been described in more detail by Brosge and others (1979) and Mull and others (1982).

The topographic relief in the mountainous area is about 4,000 ft with a maximum elevation of 7,610 ft. All but the steeper slopes are covered with tundra and underlain by permafrost. The climate is arctic continental.

## **METHODS OF STUDY**

#### Sample Media

Analyses of the stream-sediment samples represent the chemistry of the rock material eroded from the drainage basin upstream from each sample site. Such information is useful in identifying those basins which contain concentrations of elements that may be related to mineral deposits.

### Sample Collection

Samples were collected at 153 sites (plate 1). At nearly all of those sites, both a stream-sediment and a heavy-mineral-concentrate sample were collected. All heavy-mineral-concentrate samples were lost in shipment to the laboratory. Sampling density was about 1 sample site per 8 mi<sup>2</sup>. The area of the drainage basins sampled ranged from 2 mi<sup>2</sup> to 20 mi<sup>2</sup>.

The stream-sediment samples consisted of active alluvium collected primarily from first-order (unbranched) and second-order (below the junction of two first-order) streams as shown on USGS topographic maps (scale = 1:250,000). Each sample was composited from several localities within an area that may extend as much as 25 ft from the site plotted on the map.

## Sample Preparation

The stream-sediment samples were air dried, then sieved using 30-mesh stainless steel sieves. The portion of the sediment passing through the sieve was saved for analysis.

## Sample Analysis

## Spectrographic method

The stream-sediment samples were analyzed for 9 elements using a semiquantitative, carrier distillation emission spectrographic method (Barton, 1986). The elements analyzed and their lower limits of determination in parts per million are: Sb, 5; As, 20; Bi, 0.1; Cd, 1; Cu, 1; Pb, 2; Ag, 0.1; Sn, 0.1; and Zn, 2. Spectrographic results were obtained by visual comparison of spectra derived from the sample against spectra obtained from standards made from pure oxides and carbonates. Standard concentrations are geometrically spaced over any given order of magnitude of concentration as follows: 10, 5, 2, 1, and so forth. Samples whose concentrations are estimated to fall between those values are assigned values of 7, 3, 1.5, and so forth. Values determined are given in parts per million (micrograms/gram). Analytical data for stream-sediment samples from the Chandler Lake 1° x 3° quadrangle are listed in Table 1.

### Other methods

These Chandler Lake stream-sediment samples were also analyzed for 31 elements by the emission spectrographic method of Grimes and Marranzino (1968) and for Au, Cu, Zn, Sb, Cd, and As by atomic absorption (Ward and others, 1969). These data, along with data from the adjacent Killik River quadrangle, are presented by Barton and others (1982).

### **ROCK ANALYSIS STORAGE SYSTEM**

Upon completion of all analytical work, the analytical results were entered into a computer-based file called Rock Analysis Storage System (RASS). This data base contains both descriptive geological information and analytical data. Any or all of this information may be retrieved and converted to a binary form (STATPAC) for computerized statistical analysis or publication (VanTrump and Miesch, 1977).

#### DESCRIPTION OF DATA TABLE

Table 1 is arranged so that column 1 contains the USGS-assigned sample numbers along with a "CL" prefix for Chandler Lake and an "S" suffix to indicate a stream sediment. These numbers correspond to the numbers shown on the site location maps (plate 1). Columns for As, Sb, and Bi are not included in the table. These elements were sought but not detected in any samples. A letter "N" in the table indicates that a given element was looked for but not detected at the lower limit of determination for that element. If an element was observed but was below the lowest reporting value, a "less than" symbol (<) was entered in the tables in front of the lower limit of determination.

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